

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently with this amendment. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 6 are amended. Claims 2 and 11-16 are cancelled. Claim 17 is a new claim. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-10 are rejected over the prior art. All of the prior art rejections are based, at least in part, on European Patent Publication EP 0990565 A1 ("EP 565"). The rejections should be withdrawn because EP 565 does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1, 3-10 and new claim 17.

For example, EP 565 does not disclose, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in independent claims 1 and 17. Specifically, EP 565 does not disclose a seat load measuring apparatus comprising a load sensor including "a connector attached to the sensor plate adjacent to the plurality of strain gauges and adapted to removably receive an end of the cable, wherein the connector includes one or more terminals that are electrically connected to one or more conductors formed on the sensor plate" as claimed in claim 1. In addition, EP 565 does not disclose, teach or suggest or a load sensor comprising "a sensor-side connector mounted to the sensor plate adjacent to the plurality of strain gauges and adapted to removably receive a cable-side connector attached to the another end of the cable." as claimed in claim 17.

EP 565 discloses a device for detecting seat occupancy and an air bag device for a motor vehicle. As shown in figure 3, EP 565 simply discloses a plurality of weight sensors 21. Each weight sensor is connected to a cable 22 which feeds into a signal converter 23. The signal converter 23 is connected to a cable which is also connected to a connector 25. However, EP 565 does not disclose a connector attached or mounted to a sensor plate. For example, EP 565 does not disclose a connector "attached to the sensor plate adjacent to the plurality of strain gauges and adapted to removably receive an end of the cable" as called for in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 is a new claim and is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above. Support for new claim 17 can be found at least on pages 8-30 of the specification. Each of the claims 3-10 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained in these dependent claims.

The Examiner also cites U.S. Patent No. 3,949,822 ("English") and U.S. Patent No. 6,669,505 ("Wisniewski"). English and Wisniewski fail to cure the deficiencies of EP 565 and, thus do not preclude the patentability of claims 1, 3-10 and 17.

Conclusion

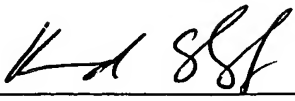
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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